

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

BILLY ACOX,

Plaintiff,

v.

GREG COX et al.,

Defendants.

3:14-cv-238-RCJ-VPC

ORDER

This action is a *pro se* civil rights complaint filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 by a former state prisoner. On September 29, 2014, this Court entered a screening order dismissing Counts I and II with leave to amend and dismissing Count III without leave to amend. (ECF No. 8 at 8). On September 30, 2014, this Court entered an addendum to its screening order and directed Plaintiff to file his amended complaint within 30 days from the date of entry of the addendum order. (ECF No. 10 at 2). The thirty-day period has now expired, and Plaintiff has not filed an amended complaint or otherwise responded to the Court's order.

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and "[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal" of a case. *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party's failure to prosecute an action, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules. See *Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (dismissal for noncompliance with local rule); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring

1 amendment of complaint); *Carey v. King*, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (dismissal
2 for failure to comply with local rule requiring *pro se* plaintiffs to keep court apprised of
3 address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for
4 failure to comply with court order); *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986)
5 (dismissal for lack of prosecution and failure to comply with local rules).

6 In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey a
7 court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the court must consider several factors: (1)
8 the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to manage its
9 docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of
10 cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives. *Thompson*, 782 F.2d
11 at 831; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 130; *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-
12 61; *Ghazali*, 46 F.3d at 53.

13 In the instant case, the Court finds that the first two factors, the public's interest in
14 expeditiously resolving this litigation and the Court's interest in managing the docket, weigh
15 in favor of dismissal. The third factor, risk of prejudice to Defendants, also weighs in favor of
16 dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in
17 filing a pleading ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. See *Anderson v. Air West*, 542
18 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor – public policy favoring disposition of cases
19 on their merits – is greatly outweighed by the factors in favor of dismissal discussed herein.
20 Finally, a court's warning to a party that his failure to obey the court's order will result in
21 dismissal satisfies the "consideration of alternatives" requirement. *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262;
22 *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 132-33; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1424. The Court's order requiring
23 Plaintiff to file an amended complaint within thirty days expressly stated: "IT IS FURTHER
24 ORDERED that if Plaintiff fails to file an amended complaint curing the deficiencies outlined
25 in this Court's September 29, 2014 order, this action will be dismissed without prejudice."
26 (ECF No. 10 at 2). Thus, Plaintiff had adequate warning that dismissal would result from his
27 noncompliance with the Court's order to file an amended complaint within thirty days.

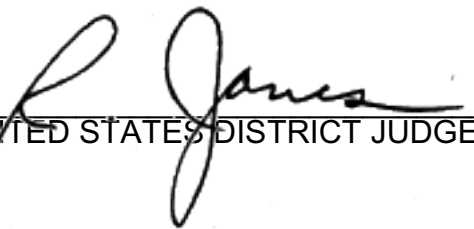
28 It is therefore ordered that this action is dismissed without prejudice based on Plaintiff's

1 failure to file an amended complaint in compliance with this Court's September 30, 2014,
2 order.

3 It is further ordered that the motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* (ECF No. 5) is denied
4 as moot.

5 It is further ordered that the Clerk of Court shall enter judgment accordingly.

6 Dated: This 5th day of November, 2014.
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10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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